

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-12 and 14-23 will be pending, of which claim 1 is independent. Claims 1-3 have been amended. Support for these amendments may be found throughout the application, for example at Example 1 and at page 5, lines 27-29. Claims 20-23 have been added. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification, for example at page 5, lines 27-31. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 and 14-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,376,571 B1 to Chawla *et al.* ("Chawla"). Applicants respectfully submit that Chawla does not teach a radiation curable composition containing a copolymeric urethane oligomer, and, consequently, Chawla does not anticipate the present invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-12 and 14-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Pending Application No. 2003/0018122 A1 to Bishop *et al.* ("Bishop 1"). Bishop 1 does not teach the wt.% of reactive diluent of the instant invention. Specifically, Bishop teaches that preferably the composition comprises less than 25 wt.% monofunctional reactive diluents. Accordingly, Bishop 1 does not anticipate claims 1-12 and 14-17. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1-12 and 14-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Published Pending Application No. 2002/0147248 A1 to Montgomery *et al.* (Montgomery). Applicants respectfully submit that Montgomery does not teach or suggest each and every element of the present invention. Specifically, Montgomery does not teach or suggest the wt% of alkoxylated aliphatic monofunctional reactive diluent of the instant invention. Montgomery discusses use of non-alkoxylated diluents and non-aliphatic diluents each of which is present in a lower wt.% than the present invention (See Examples). For the above reasons, Applicants submit that Montgomery does not anticipate or render the present invention obvious.

Claims 1- 10, 12, and 14-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,714,712 B2 to Bishop *et al.* (Bishop 2). Bishop 2 does not teach urethane-containing oligomers, as can be seen in the 2-step synthesis method of making the oligomer described throughout the application, as well as in the part of synthesis of polyester acrylates and alkyd acrylate (col. 21, line 19-67, and col.30, line1-29). No isocyanate compound was used in the preparation of these oligomers and therefore no urethane was formed. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

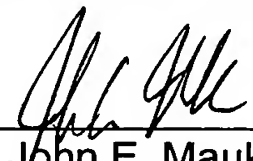
Claim 11 has also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Bishop 2 in view of Chawla. Neither Bishop 2, nor Chawla, alone or in combination suggest the instant invention. Specifically, neither Bishop 2 nor Chawla nor the combination thereof suggest a radiation-curable copolymeric urethane oligomer. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

As all objections and rejections having been addressed and overcome, Applicants respectfully request that they should be withdrawn and that the present application is in a condition for allowance. A Notice to that effect is therefore earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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